

The French in Indiana ~ Le Français en Indiana

Each year, Indiana Archaeology Month (September) features a “theme” or focus, and in 2013, the rich and varied French history, culture, and influence in what is now the state of Indiana is highlighted. In 1679 with LaSalle’s explorations, and likely earlier, the French have been a part of this state’s history. The French had significant influences in many locations of Indiana, but particularly three important fort locations: Ouiatenon [present day West Lafayette], Miamis [present day Fort Wayne], and Vincennes [present day Vincennes]. Cultural interaction among peoples was mutual, affecting many aspects of all of the groups involved at the time. For archaeologists, the study of these cultures, social interactions, and the material remains that have been left behind, has been intriguing and exciting.

The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA) is pleased to present this year’s commemorative poster and shirts.

We thank all of the organizations and the individual listed below for the kind permission to include their images in the 2013 commemorative poster and shirts designs.

1. Outdoor Indiana magazine- reenactor photograph
2. William Mangold- voyageur illustration
3. Indiana Historical Bureau (*The Indiana Historian*, December 1997)- map
4. Indiana Historical Society, M0367 - French text document
5. the collection of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites- axe head
6. the Glenn Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University, Bloomington- plate sherd
7. the collection of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Lafayette, IN- portrait by George Winter and all other archaeological artifacts not credited above



This year’s **poster** design (left) highlights various archaeological artifacts and images that reflect the French culture in Indiana.

The artifacts included are:

- (far left) Flintlock gun buttplate.
- (second from left) Blue glass trade “wine (or brandy) bottle,” with “kick-up” base and string applied rim.
- (second from right) Lead seal with manufacturer’s mark for a parcel or bundle of goods.
- (far right) Trade axe head with maker’s mark stamp “NB” (New Brunswick, Canada).
- (top) Silver trade Lorraine Cross with maker’s mark stamp “JS” (Jonas Schindler) on reverse.

Poster images include:

- Left side of poster- Circa 1860-1876 watercolor portrait by George Winter of Miss En Nah Go Gwah, a Potawatomi. This individual is wearing a silver trade cross which helps illustrate the interaction between the Native American and French cultures. The map image below the portrait shows the location of Fort Ouiatenon within what is now the State of Indiana. (http://earchives.lib.purdue.edu/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/gwinter&CISOPTR=982&CISOBOX=1&REC=5; <http://www.in.gov/history/files/fallfortsackville.pdf>)
- Right side of poster- Illustration of a typical voyageur, travelers who carried supplies and trade goods in large canoes and were the main work force in New France's fur trade transportation network.
- French flag (left of the cross) and "fleur-de-lis" (sometimes spelled "fleur-de-lys") image background- From 1590-1790 several flags were used on French warships and fortresses. They were all based on the blue Royal Banner of France used since the 17th century. The blue fleur-de-lis flag was gradually replaced by the white fleur-de-lis flag until the French Revolution. It is believed that the white fleur-de-lis flag of France flew over all or most of the French forts and settlements in America. (<http://www.loeser.us/flags/colonies.html>)
- Lower right- Image of reenactors of a French Marine unit. From around 1680, the French Marine uniform was a white uniform coat, blue cuffs, and facings.
- The handwritten French text in the background of a portion of the poster is from a contract dated May 27, 1725 between Julie Trotier Desrivieres and Jean Fontenelle, his wife, Madelain Arrive, their partner Dudenois, called La Chine, and his wife Barbe Cardinal. The contract calls for Desrivieres to lend supplies to Fontenelle and Dudenois for Dudenois's fur trading expedition to Ouiatenon and Miamis. (<http://images.indianahistory.org/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/ONWT&CISOPTR=58&REC=11>)

The poster has been financed with federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund, as administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. However, the contents and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the U.S. Department of the Interior. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This year's **shirt** design (below) also highlights various archaeological artifacts and images that reflect the French culture in Indiana, Le Français en Indiana:



The artifacts included are:

- (left) Silver trade Lorraine Cross with maker's mark "JS" (Jonas Schindler) on reverse.

- (right) Blue-on-white decorated French faience, tin enameled plate sherd, ca. mid-eighteenth century.

Shirt images include:

- (middle) - Image of reenactors of a French Marine unit. From around 1680, the French Marine uniform was a white uniform coat, blue cuffs and facings.
- The handwritten French text in the background of a portion of the shirt design is from a contract dated May 27, 1725 between Julie Trotier Desrivieres and Jean Fontenelle, his wife, Madelain Arrive, their partner Dudenois, called La Chine, and his wife Barbe Cardinal. The contract calls for Desrivieres to lend supplies to Fontenelle and Dudenois for Dudenois's fur trading expedition to Ouatennon and Miamis.

The 2013 poster and shirt designs are by Nicole D. Arb. Printed by PEN Products – www.penproducts.com.

We hope that you will be able to participate in the many archaeological events which will take place during September. Feel free to go to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3674.htm> to learn more about Indiana Archaeology Month.

To learn more about the influence and history of the French in our state, feel free to go to:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3795.htm>; <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/archaeofrench.pdf>;
<http://www.in.gov/history/files/7010.pdf>; and <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/hp-2009archaeologyjournal.pdf> (article beginning on page 108).

To read more:

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Stone, Lyle M.

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www.IN.gov/dnr/historic